

Appendix (showing changes to the specification)

The paragraph beginning on page 17, line 7 was modified as follows:

Accordingly, since each filament 41a is twisted equally, each filament 41a supports an external force equally. Therefore, it is not necessary to provide the strand 41 with more than an expected level of strength. The strand 41 is provided with a predetermined strength against external force. Thus, the weight of a resulting tire is reduced. The rubber membrane coated strand 59, in which the filaments 41a of the strand 41 and the rubber are adequately adhered, is obtained. Also, the entire strand 41 is coated with the rubber membrane layer 58 after each filament 41a is coated with the rubber layer 53, which leaves no space between the filaments. Thus, as shown in [Fig. 12] Figures 12(a)-12(d), there is no space between the filaments 41a of the strand 41. Accordingly, water does not penetrate the strand 41. Thus, the invention provides an improved corrosion-resistant rubber coated strand. Further, since the filaments 41a are separated by the rubber layer 53, the strand absorbs vibration. The strand also suppresses frictional heating produced by direct contact between the filaments 41a.

The paragraph beginning on page 32, line 9 was modified as follows:

As shown in Fig. 24 (a), the forming drum 105 rotates by a predetermined angle so that the opening 105a of the forming drum 105 is at the top. The opening 105a is where the leading and the trailing end of the cylindrical wound body 98 meet each other. In this state, as shown in Figs. 24 (b) and 24 (c), the seaming apparatus 106 moves along the opening 105a of the forming drum 105. The seaming apparatus 106 joins the start and the end of winding of the cylindrical wound body [105] 98 so that the body ply is manufactured.

The paragraph beginning on page 35, line 6 was modified as follows:

Thus, according to the [sixth] seventh embodiment, the following advantages are provided in addition to the advantages (1) to (4), (6), and (7) of the above embodiments.